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Press Release

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STATE FILES SUIT AGAINST BOB GRAHAM AND WYOMING AGING AGENCIES

Attorney General Darrell McGraw announced today that he and the other executive officers of the State, Governor Bob Wise, Secretary of State Joe Manchin, Auditor Glen Gainer, Treasurer John Perdue, and Agriculture Commissioner Gus Douglass, have filed a lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County seeking to rein in Bob Graham and the two nonprofit corporations he runs in Wyoming County: Council on Aging and All Care Home and Community Services. The suit asks that Graham be immediately restrained from accepting any compensation other than his current salary (recently reduced from \$185,000 to \$99,000), that he preserve his assets, and that all corporate records be preserved while the suit is ongoing. The suit alleges that there are "grounds for the Court to inquire" whether Graham has received excess compensation over the last several years, thereby violating the restrictions on nonprofit corporations; and whether he has wasted corporate assets by taking out-of-state trips to Hawaii, the Bahamas, and Florida, and by purchasing a Lincoln Navigator, all using corporate funds derived mainly from the federal Medicaid program and state and federal grants.

The suit seeks a court-ordered financial accounting of the corporations and of Defendant Graham to determine the extent to which he has been overcompensated, to determine whether Graham should be removed from his position as Executive Director, and whether the Board of Directors should be reconfigured to foster greater oversight of the companies' expenditures. The suit asks that Graham be ordered to refund any moneys deemed to be in excess of reasonable compensation. No relief is sought against individual members of the board of directors of either corporation.

"I have been told that these corporations are providing valuable services to the seniors in Wyoming and other counties, and we don't want them to stop doing so," said Attorney General McGraw, who represents the six elected officials who joined to bring the suit. "However, if they are also spending taxpayer money for unauthorized purposes, we need to put a stop to that so the money can be targeted at providing better programs for our seniors."

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